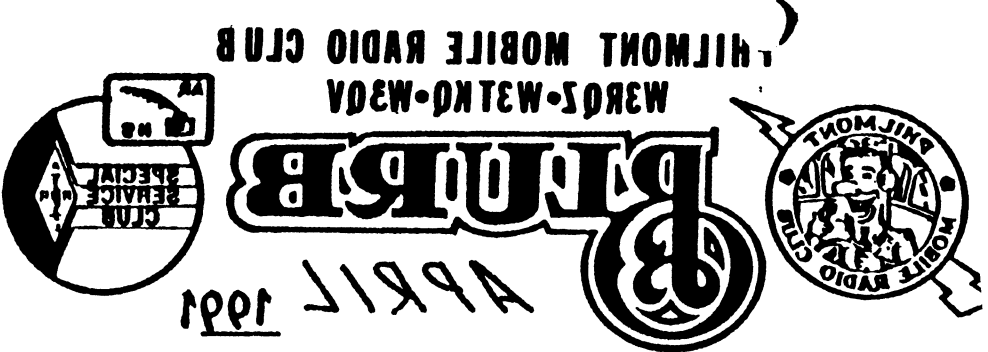




THE BLURB

A Publication of

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.
2113 EDGEHILL DRIVE, FURLONG, PA 18925



FIRST CLASS MAIL

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. BLURB subscriptions are available to non-members for \$10.00 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 PM on the first non-holiday WEDNESDAY of every month at The Franklin Institute, 20th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. Use the Winter Street (north side) entrance.

ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

Amateur Radio License Examinations - the first non-holiday THURSDAY
of every month at The Franklin Institute - doors close at 6:30 PM-SHARP!

CLUB INFORMATION

24-Hour Information Number at W3TKQ -(215) 448-1139
Repeater frequencies: 147.03 (Bucks County input requires 131.8Hz PL)
444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)
Simplex frequency: 147.51 MHz
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

STATIONS

W3QV - 147.03 MHz. Repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB
W3RQZ - 1176 Old York Road, Abington, PA - Trustee W3VVS
W3TKQ - The Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3PWG
ALL LICENSED AMATEURS ARE WELCOME TO OPERATE W3TKQ.

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VICE PRESIDENT: N3GLH, Brad Swanson, 517 Cresheim Valley Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19118 (215) 836-2473
SECRETARY: N2RM, Rob Moore, 9U Rose Rita Terrace, Hammonton, NJ 08037 (609) 561-4459
TREASURER: KB3IV, Ed Masarsky, 15 Poe Avenue, Wyncote, PA 19095 (215) 572-5238

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W3BBB (92); KC2HX (92); AK2I (91); W3IIM (A); K3KUD (91); W3RM (A); W3UY (A)

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N3DHI, WB3KOJ

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DEADLINE: To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy **MUST** be in the hands of the Editor at the Bored of Directors' Meeting!

NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET



APPLE BYTES

Don Gordon, WB3KOJ

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

02 Charles A. Andrews - W3IRS
05 Robert Moore - N2RM
06 Alberta Clark (XYL KB3QE)
Edwin N. Faye - W3RCE
08 Jackie Chedeville (XYL W3GQD)
11 Wayne C. Ziegler - WB2SZF
15 Joan Clifford (XYL W3UY)
Robert DiPasquale - WB3KAB
16 Raymond C. Garvin - W3GRY
17 Ned Schlichting - N2EMN
19 Harold P. Grace - W3HFY
21 Laura Lusky (XYL W3APD)
22 Russell E. Miller - K3NYN
23 Emma Shaw (XYL W3ADV)
27 Bunny DiPasquale (XYL WB3KAB)
Dr. Carl H. Vold - W3SGR
28 Bess Rowland (XYL W3JIL)
29 Alice Faries (XYL W3AOA)

HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join **ARRL** or renew your current membership?
Help Phil-Mont by joining or renewing through the club.
Contact **KB3IV** for the details.

TRUTH IN ADVERTISING

You should have received your 1991 P.M.R.C. DIRECTORY with this BLURB. If you didn't, get in touch with Jack - W3IIM for a copy.
(Additional copies will be available at the general meetings.-Ed)
If you find any errors in your listing (I'm not always right...but I'm never wrong) please let me know and the correction will appear here next month.



NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

CALL: **N3DBX**
 NAME: Thomas M'Lenahan
 HANDLE: Tom
 CLASS: Technician
 ADDRESS: 1213 Lombard Street
 Philadelphia, PA
 19147
 HOME PHONE: (215) 732-4583
 OCCUPATION: Attorney
 INTERESTS: W3TKQ

CALL: **N3ISE**
 NAME: Jay Sokolow
 HANDLE: Jay
 CLASS: Technician
 ADDRESS: 1010 Disston Street
 Philadelphia, PA
 19111
 HOME PHONE: (215) 745-1344
 OCCUPATION: PC Specialist
 INTERESTS: Repeater, W3TKQ

CALL: **KD3VS**
 NAME: Edmond P. Rush, Jr.
 HANDLE: Pat
 CLASS: Advanced
 ADDRESS: 503 Howell Lane
 Havertown, PA
 19083-1819
 HOME PHONE: (215) 449-6228
 OCCUPATION: Accountant-CPA

REPEATING

"Mobile Sixers RC" is looking for a more appropriate club name which better describes their activities.... **Stella Tinaglia** is very ill... Congratulations to **The South Jersey Radio Association**—celebrating their 75th year!... SWL Ham Net on 7.240MHz every Sunday morning at 10AM... June General Meeting plans are being made for "Family Night" with a planned special showing of "The Blue Planet," in The Franklin Institute's new **Omniverse Theatre**. Make plans now to be there, and to see a sneak preview of "The NEW 'TKQ!'" More info next month.

PHIL-MONT'S Packet BBS is On The Air!

W3TKQ now has a packet mailbox on 145.05 MHz. Its call is W3TKQ-10. You are welcome to use it to leave messages for any station, but we would like to keep it limited to club members and, in particular, operators at 'TKQ. There will also be a list of club activities, i.e. meetings, V.E. exams, CW practice, Sunday nets, etc. This list will be kept in message #1.

If you want to contact an operator at W3TKQ, it is important that you address the message to W3TKQ so a light will alert the operator. Here is how to contact an operator at 'TKQ: Connect to W3TKQ-10 (If you cannot connect directly, use a node. i.e. BEARS. Type the following: s W3TKQ. When it responds with 'Subject:' type—in the CALL of the operator. Type—in the message when it asks for it. To end a message type a 'Control Z' or /ex on a new line. To send or read a message to another station, use normal PBBS procedure: s=send, r=read, k=kill. (Remember, we only have 8K of memory.)
 NS3Z

The PREZ SEZ

Bill Popovic, N3FV1

What better use for your amateur-radio gear than to save a life?

The public-service season will soon be here, and hundreds of amateurs will volunteer their time and equipment. Their day will consist of passing routine traffic for most, but the communications of some will be very important!

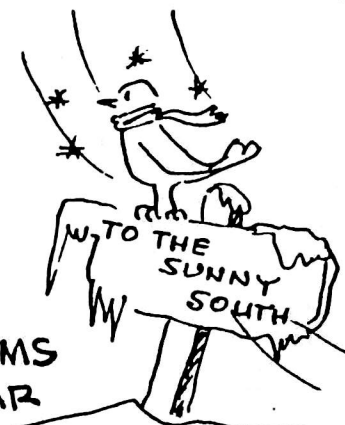
It is difficult for event organizers to get enough operators to man an event properly. If every amateur participated in just one event per decade, there would be more than enough. I urge all Phil-Monters to try a special event this year. You will probably enjoy it, as do the members who participate year after year. By spending just a few hours of your time, you will create some positive publicity for amateur radio, and possibly save a life.

During the 1989 Cancer Society's bikeathon, I was directed to an injured biker. He had lost control of his bike, fallen, and was bleeding from his ears and mouth. Hearing my call for an ambulance, the amateur at the first-aid station drove a nurse two miles to my location. Just as they arrived the cyclist lost consciousness and went into a convulsion. The nurse requested a Medivac helicopter, but a county life-support ambulance was dispatched. The first ambulance arrived with Chris, DF9WM, as its radio operator. Chris, a blind exchange-student from Germany, taped the event on audiocassette. Chris is still telling his story, and playing the tape to his friends at home. The cyclist spent 18 days in the hospital recovering from a fractured skull, concussion, and perforated eardrum.

Sama
CORNER

BALDY BILL
(YHV)
AND XYL MAE
DID NOT
JOIN THE FLORIDA
SNOW BIRDS
THIS WINTER.. IT SEEMS
MAE IS NOT UP TO PAR
LATELY.

THIS CARFOONIST - CHET-YDS AND ALL THE
PHILMONTERS WISH HER WELL! AND SOON.



*** UPDATE ***

Apr 3 **General Meeting Speaker:**
Kay Cragie, KC3LM
Vice Director, ARRL
Atlantic Division

Apr 4 License Examinations
Apr 17 Directors' Meeting at
W3GQD's

May 1 **General Meeting Speaker:**
Chris Brady, N3IEI
KYW-TV Cameraman

May 2 License Examinations
May 15 Directors' Meeting at
AK2I's

June 5 **General Meeting**
FAMILY NIGHT

June 6 License Examinations
June 19 Directors' Meeting at
N3GLH's

HAMFESTS

Apr 6-7 TIMONIUM, MD
(Sat&Sun) Baltimore ARC

Apr 13 LEBANON, PA
(Sat) Appalachian ARG

Apr 14 WILMINGTON, DE
Delmarva Hamfest Assn.

Apr 26-28 DAYTON
HAMVENTION

May 19 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA
Warminster ARC

Sept 15 PENNSAUKEN, NJ
South Jersey RA

Sept 21-22 YORK, PA
York ARA

CLUB INFORMATION

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(215) 448-1139

V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring their original license and one photocopy of it. All applicants, including children, must present positive ID. Also bring the original of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1991 test fee is \$5.25; there is no charge for a Novice test.

BELLMAWR, NJ
Monthly, 3rd Thursday
Bill Helmatag
(609) 546-7710

CENTER CITY PHILA.
Monthly, 1st Thursday
Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q
(215) 482-0386
(215) 879-0505

TELFORD
Monthly, 3rd Monday
Warren Erdman K3ZXQ
(215) 679-5764

BRYN MAWR
Saturday, Feb. 9
Bob Haase, W3SA
(215) 293-1919

LEVITTOWN
Dave Munson, NM3K
(215) 788-7515

WARMINSTER
Last Wed., Odd Months
Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ
(215) 343-3494

**THE
W
3
T
K
Q****REPORT**

by
Jake Kovalchek,
AK2I

PHASE II: THE REBUILDING PROGRAM

For those of you that have sent in checks in various amounts for Phase II - we thank you very much. Many additional items are needed in order to fully implement W3TKQ. One of our recent donations was two very beautiful overhead light fixtures that really add a touch of elegance I never thought we could afford at the station. These brass fixtures, with indirect lighting and special bullet type specialty light enhancing, is indeed properly described as the "Mother of All Light Fixtures."

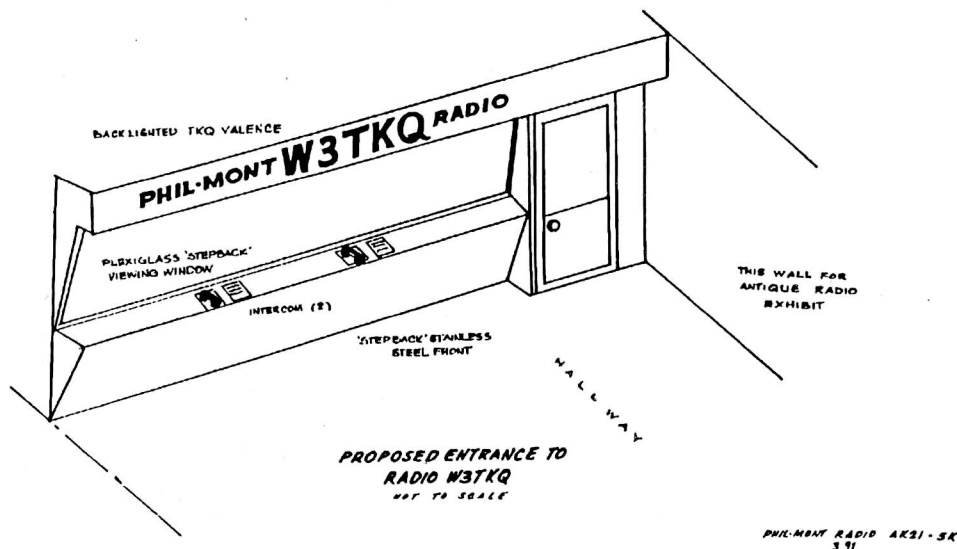
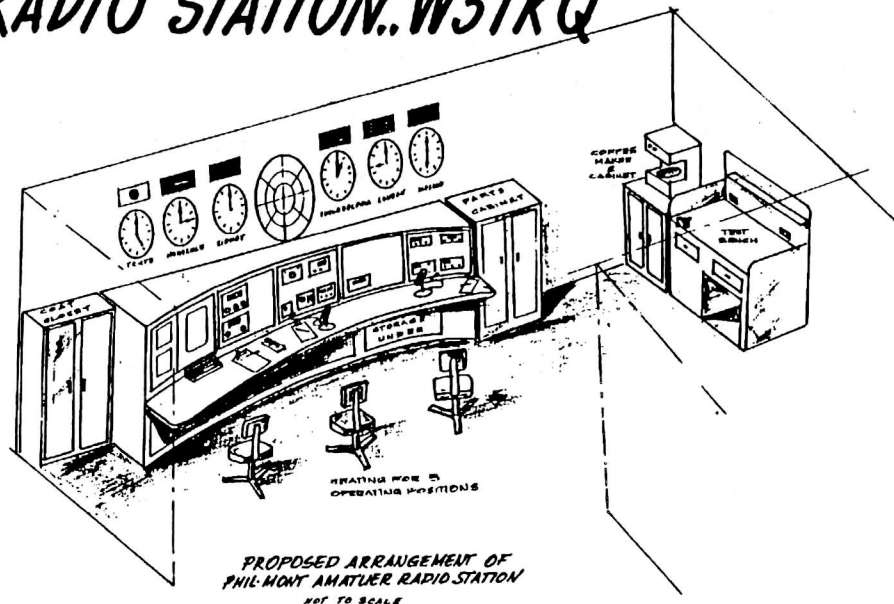
There were suggestions made that training on all of the new equipment take place on video camera so that we can make use of the talents of the instructor several hundred times over if necessary, and I agree. Please, even though you might not be directly involved with the rebuilding of W3TKQ, if you have ideas like the one WA3AUN had, don't hesitate to call me and make me aware. I'm not going to agree with all of them, but I sure would appreciate your input. Only in this way can we get the proper cross section of ideas that makes Phil-Mont what it is.

There is hope that we can get started on the rebuilding work sooner than May, 1991. The clean-up of the present station is now complete, and since we now have room to move around, I see no reason to delay the start of construction. We will discuss this at Mid-Month and make plans accordingly if all the members of the committee are in agreement. Frankly, there are so many things in the wind for W3TKQ in June, that we better get started early if we are to meet these commitments. I'll keep you informed. In the meantime, any and all amounts of donations are appreciated, and a reminder: are all tax deductible.

LATE—BREAKING NEWS.....

The long-awaited announcement as to who was the anonymous donor for our W3TKQ building fund was finally revealed in a very strange way at the recent mid-month meeting of your Board of Directors. It seems that while no one knew who the donor was (except me) the question was finally answered at Coffee and Cake time when Ben Roeshman came over to me and whispered "my wife had a recent birthday party for me, and when she was about to say something, one of my grandchildren came to me and announced that they had donated, in my memory, the Second Console at the Amateur radio station at W3TKQ ... I could have split open with joy and excitement." I, naturally, took that as an open permit to tell all the participants at the meeting, Ben Roeshman is indeed a very lucky man!

PROPOSAL FOR PHIL-MONT RADIO STATION..W3TKQ



You can see this full-sized color poster displayed at W3TKQ.

MINUTES

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

No minutes received by press-time.

GUEST SPEAKER — Kay who?

Kay Craigie, KC3LM, originally from Atlanta, has lived in Pennsylvania and Maryland for the last 22 years. Holder of a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, she taught at the University of Maryland and Cabrini College, and worked in educational data processing.

Kay has been an active member of the Mid-Atlantic ARC, serving as newsletter editor since 1983 and Board member since 1989, in addition to working on the hamfest committee. She was captain of the club's VE team for a year, and co-taught Novice classes for four years.

Appointed an ARRL Assistant Section Manager for Eastern PA in 1985, she became Section Manager the following year, and held that elected position for two terms. In 1989, she was elected Vice Director of the Atlantic Division. Since assuming that office in January, 1990, she has traveled throughout the Division and worked with the Director, Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, to form an effective ARRL leadership team.

At the ARRL Board of Directors meeting in January of this year, Kay was appointed to the Membership Services Committee. This committee's responsibilities include policy recommendations for the League's contests, operating awards, band plans, W1AW information bulletins, and QSL bureaus. "After several years' experience with the ARRL volunteer programs," Kay says, "I'm looking forward to getting more involved with other aspects of the League's activities. Leaders need to see the organization from as many angles as possible."

Mindful of what could happen if ham radio became all work and no play, Kay stays active on the air. She's waiting on the last QSL for "Worked All States on CW", and completed DXCC on 10 meters last year. She sponsors the Novice/Tech plaque in the Pennsylvania QSO Party; she enjoys that contest and also works the ARRL 10 Meter Contest, Field Day, November Sweepstakes, and Novice Roundup. On Fridays, she is Net Control Station on the Pennsylvania Traffic Training Net, Eastern PA's slow-code net on 3610 kHz at 6:30 PM.

She is also happy to be one of the volunteer operators at W3TKQ.

Kay's family includes several other Amateurs. Husband Carter Craigie, KD3AO, is president of the Mid-Atlantic ARC (MARC), and ARRL Eastern PA Section Traffic Manager. Her father is Jim Cothran, KD3NI, and daughter is Jenny Craigie, KA3WVD.

(That's who! C'mon out!—Ed)



FCC PROPOSES AMATEUR RADIO "USER FEES"



Confronted with inadequate funding, deteriorating buildings and equipment, and an ever-growing workload, the Federal Communications Commission has proposed controversial new "user fees" for all radio services and many non-radio communications services that require Commission attention. Whether commercial or noncommercial, all "fee-able" services would have to pay or face cancellation of their FCC authorization to operate. Some 3 million users of the spectrum would be subject to the fee.

The newly proposed fees are separate from application and license processing fees which are levied on most radio services. The amateur service is currently exempt from these charges. The new user fees would cover FCC "operational" costs tied to rulemaking, enforcement and other regulatory activities.

The plan is already drawing opposition from spectrum users including the National Association of Broadcasters and public-safety radio licensees. Last year, the NAB waged a very aggressive battle against a proposed 4% spectrum tax on a broadcast station's total revenue. Broadcasters say they already spend millions to serve the public interest.

Of the scores of fees to be charged to "FCC users" of all kinds, from satellite operators to TV stations to telephone companies, the fee proposed for Amateur Radio is the smallest of all. According to Alfred Sikes, FCC chairman, hams would pay \$3.00 for each year of their ten-year license term. The fee would be collected from each amateur in one lump sum of \$30.00.

In contrast, most Private Radio Services would pay \$10.00 for each year of the typical 5-year license term, in addition to FCC application filing fees of about \$35.00 and frequency coordination fees, charged by FCC-certified coordinators, which can run into hundreds of dollars. The FCC already raises over \$40 million a year from existing application processing fees.

Contrary to some early reports, (including one from the chairman himself to our

own Washington reporter), the new fees are not merely a higher rate for the existing application fees. The new fees are over and above the application fees. The American Radio Relay League led a successful charge in the Congress to have amateurs exempted from these license processing fees, however.

The chairman presented his fee plan to the Congress in a series of hearings earlier this month before a House Appropriations Subcommittee panel. He provided no information about how the fee would be submitted ... or if Volunteer Examiner Coordinators would be responsible for collection of the fees. Currently, VEs collect examination administration fees at testing time in the amount of \$5.25. This is to reimburse the VEC System for costs associated with preparing and administering the amateur service examination program.

The application fees for most other private radio services are collected by a Pittsburgh bank. The bank retrieves the fee payments from applicants' mail sent to FCC post office boxes, and deposits the money in Treasury accounts as quickly as possible. Then the bank forwards the license applications to the FCC for processing.

Half of the FCC's budget for fiscal 1992 would come from spectrum use fees under a proposal put forth by President Bush in his 1992 federal spending plan. According to the administration, the new user fees would help in fighting the federal deficit, a slumping economy, the added cost of the Persian Gulf War and the savings and loan bailout.

Not only would licensees be subject to these fees, but other telecommunications services as well. Cable systems, for example, aren't licensed by the FCC, but are regulated by it. The 1992 fiscal year begins October 1, 1991.

The FCC does not yet have authority to charge the user fees. Congress must deal with how to finance the FCC's \$133 million funding request in addition to the user fee issue. The FCC said that it could raise over \$65 million from the fees. (\$25.3 million of

less than 2:1 at the ANTENNA or avoid using COAX if you want a full transfer of power from your transmitter to your antenna. No amount of fiddling with tuners in the shack will ever deliver your full RF at the antenna through coax if there is a gross mismatch up at the antenna. Yes, you can trick your transmitter into full power output, but how much of it is accepted at the antenna is the story I have just told. But that is not the whole story.

I hear more Xtra-class hams explaining how a low SWR always means you are getting out a great signal! Really? Ah shucks. Did you know you can get a perfect SWR of 1:1 with a hunk of 52 ohm coax SHORTED an one end? How about a hunk of 52 ohm coax open circuited on one end? Yup, sure can, it depends on the length of the coax, the frequency and the velocity factor of the coax. How about if you had a non-inductive 52 ohm 100 watt resistor at the end of your coax? Getting out now, Bunky? You sit down there in your shack and you look at that old SWR bridge like it was Moses leading you out of the Sinai, but all it is telling you is the ratio of reflected waves coming back for the waves you are putting in.

"What about all-band antennas, oh aged oracle of nonsensical electronics? What about the Podunk Piledriver, the T-burg Throttle, the Newfield Nemesis? I can QSY from hell to breakfast, oh aging, insulated, idiosyncratic infidel. Speak to me, great lout, and tell me these do not work?" What do you mean by "work?"

Every antenna that was ever conceived, short of God's Golden Fork, is a compromise. You have to give up something to get something. You give up "Q" for broad bandwidth. You give up directivity for uniformity of pattern. You give up ease of tuning for

multi-band. You give up wind resistance for large arrays. The question is not if they work, but what will you give up. What do you want. You want a Rhombic? Tremendous gain, extremely wide bandwidth, can work over four octaves, easily outperforms any other lowband antenna. The biggest bang for your buck! It only takes about six acres to put one up and you sure as hell can't rotate it, and it takes a mile of wire, four 50 foot poles, a homemade feeder and an unobtainable 500 watt non-inductive resistor, but... baby, you can be King of the Orient, La Boca Grande, Mr. Maximo when that signal slams down upon that to which it was aimed.

Commercial, all-band, antennas can be good or bad, depending on the design. You can fry eggs on the traps of horizontal trap designs. Wherever you fry eggs, you are not putting that RF into the antenna. On the other hand, some all-band vertical antennas use decoupler stubs to achieve multi-band performance which work quite well within relatively small segments of each band. Do not expect to QSY very far with these antennas, especially on the lower bands. Xtra-class hams will tell you this is where you use a "tuner" to QSY. Sure, sure, sure. At diminishing power levels you can QSY through your tuner all over the place. Take out your tuner and look at the SWR running naked on the line and then reread all about the little ol' whorehouse before you brag about what a great signal you are putting out.

What makes us all happy is band conditions. If the band is right, and the skip is right, and you can get a lousy twenty watts into the antenna while the other eighty watts defrosts your feeder, you will be happy. So will I. Let the madame wave on, and on, and on, and on...

The HILLTOPPER

SPICY STANDING WAVES

Russ Hamilton, W2FXU

I just love to hear a couple of Xtra-class Hams discussing SWR and "antenna tuners," "antenna matchers" or "matchboxes." Funny thing is, there are no such things. No, Bunky, what they are talking about (and I do it too) are FEEDER tuners. The truth is, you cannot do anything about the high SWR your ANTENNA may be exhibiting while you are in THE SHACK. This may well be the most startling concept you may ever learn in ham radio. The only "good" an "antenna tuner" can do you, is to match the transmitter to the FEEDER (not the antenna). This does indeed make your transmitter feel good because it can then develop its full power without automatic shut-down. What we are saying is, your 100 watt rig can now force 100 watts of RF power into your FEEDER when the standing wave ratio is close to a 1:1 match. But what happens to that 100 watts as it enters the (usual) 52 ohm coax and tries to climb up to your antenna is another story, which you are about to read now and forthwith.

First of all, what does Standing Wave Ratio (SWR), sometimes referred to as VSWR, stand for? Think of it this way: the power output of your rig is the "customers," the matching device is the pimp, the coax is the "house," the standing waves are the madame and the girls, the antenna is the back door.

When the pimp meets the customer, he tells him how nice things are in the house. The customer rushes in and the madame stands and waves. The last girl at the back door reflects the customer, and she stands and waves to him as he leaves. Now this is a perfect standing wave ratio of 1:1 since one

guy entered the house, ran down the hallway and reflected once before he could get out the back door.

Suppose another guy enters the house before the first guy gets reflected? The madame stands and waves, another girl also stands and waves, the first guy is too busy to wave because he is still getting reflected. The house heats up slightly because more customers are coming to the door. This is the classic 2:1 SWR. Notice the house is starting to heat.

Here comes another customer. The madame stands and waves. This guy gets through the front door and says, "Hey, wait a minute. It's getting hot in here, I'll wait outside." But the pimp is standing at the front door and the guy can't get out. He turns around and rushes down the hallway whereupon another girl grabs him and reflects him while the first two guys are still being reflected. The dreaded 3.1 SWR!

There are plenty of girls in these houses and plenty of customers rushing out of your transmitter, and if it were not for the pimp, the customers would all rush back outside the front door, and they would be mad as hell, and take it all out on your solid state final. The more customers being reflected in the house at one time, the hotter the house gets. Even the pimp gets hot and very few customers get out the back door to go to work.

Now that you know what SWR is doing inside your coax, what can you do about it? Only two things can be done, 1) see to it that only one customer gets through the house at one time or 2) send your customers to a better house. Translation: keep your SWR

it would come from land mobile and cellular radio, satellite operators, long distance and local phone companies.) It proposed to keep up to \$65 million and forward the rest to the U.S. Treasury.

Being able to self-generate half of its funding would grant the FCC some degree of independence from Congressional control, which might cause some legislators to hesitate. Past FCC chairmen got along poorly with Congress, and some observers believe Congress used its "power of the purse" to penalize an FCC and chairmen it did not agree with. The FCC is now trying to compensate for this past withholding of funding.

The \$133 million FCC request is 15% (\$17.6 million) higher than last year - the largest hike ever. Of particular budgetary concern is the aging equipment used by the FCC's Field Operations Bureau. The FOB is responsible for monitoring the entire spectrum for violations and emergency situations that require special direction-finding (DF) capability.

The FCC maintains a Watch Officer 24 hours a day in the Communications Center on the seventh floor of its main building in northwest Washington. The Watch Officer coordinates direction-finding operations of the network of 35 field offices and monitoring stations, including 13 Wullenweber DF antennas.

"[This] radio equipment is extremely old and unreliable," the FCC told Congress, "frequently failing and disrupting HF network coordination. Lack of modern equipment prevents participation in the inter-agency emergency coordination system. The measurement equipment is obsolete, unreliable, or inoperative which greatly hinders the off-the-air analysis of technical operating parameters." Chairman Sikes asked for \$151,000 to modernize HF Network Operations... and \$887,000 for VHF/UHF Operations such as mobile and fixed, remote-control DF systems.

The FCC said that its "...effectiveness continues to diminish" because of past inadequate funding. FCC staffing has been cut 20% since 1980. Much of the FCC's budget

request consists of descriptions of what will happen if doesn't get the money it is asking for.

"If the FCC is not provided with adequate resources to do these jobs expeditiously," it said, "the benefits of new spectrum-based technologies will be deferred—adversely affecting the productivity of the U.S. workforce and putting the U.S. economy at a disadvantage to its foreign competitors."

The FCC also wants to hire another 38 new employees in its common carrier bureau and plans to use some of the additional resources to fund investigative work needed on high definition television and other high technology communications services. The Commission also badly needs a new computer system. The new budget provides for 1,828 "full-time equivalents" (FTEs.) An FTE is equal to one 40 hour employee.

In case you feel that \$30.00 is too much to pay for the level of FCC service received, reserve your sympathy for the American Telephone & Telegraph Co. It is in a fee category all by itself. AT&T would have to pay the FCC's highest fee, a cool \$2 million per year. Its competitors in the long-distance business such as MCI and Sprint would need to pay just \$500,000.

The FCC's Office of Management and Budget is also planning to raise some \$800 million in revenue beginning in 1994 - and \$1.2 billion in 1995 - by auctioning off portions of the radio spectrum to commercial users. That's if spectrum presently allocated to the federal government gets reassigned to the private sector.

Lawmakers have introduced legislation that would force the Commerce Dept's National Telecommunications and Information Administration to earmark some 200 megahertz of under-used government frequencies for commercial development. Congress has shown little interest, however, in authorizing spectrum auctions. They feel that the airwaves are a public resource that should not be sold to private industrial interests.

WSYI REPORT

ODE TO SPRING

SOME NOTES ON THE OPERATION OF POWER LAWN MOWERS

Power-driven rotary lawn mowers are a great boon to shiftless suburbanites whose lawns are full of dandelions, buckthorn and other weeds too tall for the reel-type or conventional grass cutters.

The rotary-mower, however, is not an unmixed blessing. Unseen rocks and sticks, to say nothing of unburied bones, will raise hell with the blades. So will nails, bits of wire and other metal debris.

But these problems pale into insignificance when compared with the unhappy result of running a rotary lawn mower over newly deposited dog s..t. Until you have had your shoes shined with pulverized dog s..t you cannot appreciate the extent of this problem.

Cat s..t, to be sure, smells worse, but cats, as everyone knows, are more careful to cover up their waste than dogs. However, cats do not s..t as much as dogs, unless you have very small dogs or very large cats.

There are a number of approaches to the problem of animal excreta versus the rotary lawn mower but, unfortunately, no real solution. First, of course, you can try to keep dogs (and cats) away from your lawn. The only effective method of doing this is to buy a dog bigger and ornerier than any dog in the neighborhood. and train him (a) to chase other dogs off your grass, and (b) to s..t on your neighbor's yard. There are obvious drawbacks to this method of combating the problem.

First, of course, there is always the chance that one of your neighbors will hire a cow and train it to deposit cow-flop on your lawn. It has been estimated that a rotary lawn mower operating at 3450 r.p.m. can hurl a normal deposit of cow s..t as high as your second story window and over an area of 500 square feet.

Building a fence is a possible solution, but expensive. It is, in addition, no good unless you can train your wife and children to keep the gate shut; and too, some dogs will jump fences, even when full of s..t.

There are various commercial preparations, sold mostly to evil minded old women, which are supposed to discourage dogs from (a) making love on your front stoops or (b) peeing on your shrubs. These chemicals are worthless since it is second nature to dogs to love and pee, just as it is for humans. Even if these preparations did work, of course they would not solve the basic problem created by the rotary lawn mowers. This leaves three other possible solutions:

1. Let the damned weeds grow.
2. Move into an apartment and use the rotary mower as a window fan.
3. Wear brown shoes when mowing, and associate only with people who either do not mind the smell or color s..t, or who are too polite to mention it to you.

MORAL OF THIS STORY: Don't buy a damn rotary lawn mower

From the Phil-Mont archives

A MILESTONE

April 5th will be an anniversary in my life! I look back at 1941 with some nostalgia, when I thought I had accomplished something when, six months after earning my "Class B" license, I earned my "Class A", then the highest class of license available to the amateur!

Today, with our VE program, we see young people advance from Novice to Technician to General to Advanced, and on to Extra in no time at all. Oh to be young again.

I was able to earn my "Class A" with less than one year experience as "Class B" because, in the meantime I had obtained Radiotelephone First, and Radiotelegraph Second Class commercial licenses! Those were the days of essay-type examinations, and many schematic diagrams which had to be correctly drawn.

I have enjoyed my experiences in the hobby, and wish I had gotten my license earlier! W3VVS

FOC 660	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON	NOT TRANSFERABLE N
AMATEUR RADIO STATION LICENSE		
This license is valid until 3 o'clock a. m., eastern standard time, 3 years from date of issuance, subject to the provisions of all treaties, laws, orders, and regulations that apply to amateur radio stations.		
Licensee and fixed station location: Harry Paul Bohlander 520 S. Wayne St. Fremont, Ohio		Call letters: W 8 V V S Date of issuance: 4-5-41
This license vests no right to operate the station nor to the use of authorized frequencies beyond the term hereof, nor in any other manner than authorized herein. This license is subject to the right of use or control by the Government of the United States under section 606 of the Communications Act of 1934.		
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, T. J. Slowie, Secretary		

Counter-signed by <i>Harry Paul Bohlander</i> Licensee	Date of issuance: 4-5-41	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON	NOT TRANSFERABLE
	AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR LICENSE		
	This license when signed by an issuing officer of the Commission, indicating privileges granted and countersigned by the Licensee, is valid for 3 years from the date of issuance, subject to the provisions of all treaties, laws, orders, and regulations that apply to amateur radio operators.		
	FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, T. J. Slowie, Secretary		
	Licensee and P. O. address: Harry Paul Bohlander 520 S. Wayne St. Fremont, Ohio		
Privileges	Issuing Officer	Date	
Class C	<i>gpb</i>	4-5-41	
Class B			
Class A			

71st MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS MARCH

26 candidates pass 24 elements
6 new amateurs — averaging 38 new amateurs per year
5 upgrades — averaging 107 new licenses per year

Thanks to the members of our VE team:

ND3Q, Dusty Rhoads, Chairman

N3EKR, Lee Pamplin; W3FZR, Niel Leone; W3IRS, Charles Andrews; NS3Z, Bob Forrester

LEAGUE STREAMLINES VOLUNTEER EXAM PROGRAM

Just in time to welcome newcomers to Amateur Radio via the codefree Technician license, ARRL has announced major improvements in its Volunteer Examiner (VE) program. The changes, most of which take effect immediately, will make examinations more convenient for potential amateurs and present hams wishing to upgrade.

The new ARRL program offers greater flexibility and support for Volunteer Examiners who participate through the ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (ARRL/VEC).

To make it possible for VEs to schedule examination sessions more frequently, and to provide more publicity in their local areas, the League will now permit its VE teams to retain up to \$4.00 of the \$5.25 exam fee to offset expenses incurred locally. The services the League has traditionally provided to its VE teams free of charge will continue to be available on that basis.

VEs may now telephone the ARRL VEC via a toll-free number: 1-800-9-ARRL-VEC (1-800-927-7583). The toll-free service is available in all 50 states, Puerto Rico,

and the Virgin Islands. The service can even be accessed from some foreign countries; VE teams overseas should contact the ARRL/VEC for information on how to access the number from their locations.

VEs who have been active in other VEC programs, and whose accreditation in another program is current, are now able to apply for "instant accreditation" as ARRL Volunteer Examiners.

By April 1, VE teams who prefer to use their own computers to generate exams will be able to do so. Teams that prefer a multiple-choice format for Morse code exams will be able to use that format, at their option.

"As a result of the code-free Technician license, the demands on Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiners will be very heavy in the coming months," says ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We want to give our VEs the best support we can during this critical period. We also want to make sure that anyone seeking an opportunity to take an exam won't have far to look."

The ARRL Letter

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

For Information Call ND3Q at
(215) 482-0386 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.



APRIL FOOL: NO JOKE

April Fools' Day, or All Fools' Day, the traditional day for practical jokes, began in 1564 when New Year's Day was changed from April 1 to January 1. Until then, New Year celebrations began March 21 and ended April 1. (Talk about a gargantuan hang-over.) France was the first nation to adopt the new calendar, but old habits die hard, and some people clung to the old date.

Those continuing to do so were ridiculed, and in time, jokers began making calls of pretended ceremony and sending mock gifts on April 1. In France, the joke is called *poisson d'avril*, an "April fish," perhaps because fish tend to be easily caught then. Today, French confectioners display chocolate fish in their windows on April 1, and as a joke, friends send each other unsigned humorous postcards with pictures of fish. (Makes you wonder if Hallmark is aware of this.)

In Scotland, an April fool is called an April *gowk*, the Scottish word for cuckoo, the emblem of simpletons.

April Fools' Day was brought to early American settlements by English, Scottish and French settlers. And in some places, if April fooling is not carried out by noon, the prankster is considered the April fool for having tried his tricks too late.

GULF COAST Magazine

MAY SPEAKER

Our speaker for the May 1st meeting will be Chris Brady, N3IEI, who is going to give a "Point to Point" video and audio demonstration. He will be using a 13 gigahertz microwave relay. There will also be a slide presentation.

Chris has worked in television for 9 years, 6 of them at KYW-TV 3.

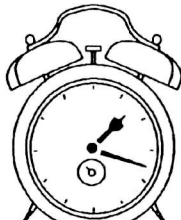


KA3AMO's solution

1991

APRIL

1991

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 <i>All Fools' Day</i>	2 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM AK2I	3 GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 PM Meeting starts at 7:30	4 LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 PM <i>sharp!</i>	5	6 <i>Timonium Hamfest</i>
7 Daylight Savings begins 2M NCS N3FVI 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3PWG <i>Timonium Hamfest</i>	8	9 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	10 <i>Arbor Day</i>	11	12	13 <i>Thomas Jefferson 1743</i>
14 2M NCS K3QLY 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3AOA <i>Wilmington Hamfest</i>	15	16 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3ALW	17 DIRECTORS' MEETING at W3GQD's	18 <i>Albert Einstein died 1955</i>	19	20
21 2M NCS KA3AMO 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS W3RCE	22	23 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	24 <i>Secretary's Day</i>	25	26 <i>Dayton Hamvention Begins</i>	27 <i>U.S. Grant 1822</i>
28 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS ANYONE 75M NCS AK2I	29	30 CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM		<i>The rewards in business go to the man who does something with an idea.</i>		